UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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7 March 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 110 (c)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.3 and Corr.1)]

51/116. Situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[2] and all other human rights instruments and instruments of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[3] for the protection of victims of war and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[4] as well as the principles and commitments undertaken by participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil their obligations under the human rights instruments to which they are party, and reaffirming also the obligation of all to respect international humanitarian law,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

Reaffirming also the territorial integrity of all States in the region, within their internationally recognized borders,

Welcoming the entry into force and implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto, initialled at Dayton, Ohio, on 21 November 1995 and signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), representing also the Bosnian Serb party, in Paris on 14 December 1995 (collectively the "Peace Agreement"),[5] which, inter alia, committed the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to respect fully human rights,

Welcoming also the efforts of Member States in assisting in the implementation of the Peace Agreement through their participation in the Implementation Force and other activities directed at resolving the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, and commending the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the implementation of the mandates with which it was entrusted by the Peace Agreement,

Welcoming further the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (the "Basic Agreement"),[6] signed on 12 November 1995 by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the local Serb representatives, which created conditions permitting the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, and Security Council resolution 1037 (1996) of 15 January 1996, by which the Council established the Transitional Administration,

Welcoming the participation of Member States in the Transitional Administration and other activities intended to facilitate implementation of the Basic Agreement and the transition of the region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium from local Serb control to control by the Republic of Croatia,

Recognizing the positive effects that the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the Basic Agreement have had on the region since their respective entry into force, in particular the return of peace to the region and the increasing normalization of social, political and economic life,

Taking note of the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and

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[5] See A/50/790-S/1995/999; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995, document S/1995/999.

[6] See A/50/757-S/1995/951; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995, document S/1995/951.

Montenegro),[7] in particular article 7 thereof, which, inter alia, ensures conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons and the return of their property or a just compensation, and in that context stressing the positive impact of mutual recognition agreements among successor States of the former Yugoslavia,

Welcoming the holding of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 14 September 1996 with the assistance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other organizations,

Gravely concerned nonetheless at the continuing evidence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro),

Stressing the importance of an effective functioning of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 808 (1993) of 22 February 1993 and 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993, for the positive development of the situation of human rights in the region,

Acknowledging the progress made by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards ethnic reconciliation in the region,

Calling upon all parties to the Peace Agreement to implement the necessary measures in the furtherance of ethnic reconciliation in their respective territories,

Encouraging the international community, acting through the United Nations and other international organizations as well as bilaterally, to enhance significantly humanitarian support for the people of the region and to promote human rights, economic reconstruction, the repatriation of refugees and the holding of free elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Welcoming the efforts of the European Union to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and endorsing the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur that economic and other aid must be made conditional on meaningful progress on human rights,

Underlining the relationship between the fulfilment by the parties of their human rights commitments and the readiness of the international community to commit resources for reconstruction and development,

Dismayed by the large number of missing persons still unaccounted for, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Republic of Croatia, and noting with approval the establishment of the International Commission on Missing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia and the efforts of the expert member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and of the working and expert groups on the missing, chaired respectively by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the High Representative,

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[7] A/51/318-S/1996/706, annex, and A/51/351-S/1996/744, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996, documents S/1996/706 and S/1996/744.

Expressing its particular concern for the situation of women and also that of children, the elderly and refugees, internally displaced persons and minorities, as well as other vulnerable groups in the region,

Calling attention to the reports and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn, on the situation of human rights in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), including her most recent reports of 4 November 1996[8] and 12 November 1996,[9] and especially the recommendations set forth therein,

Acknowledging efforts made by the Governments of the region to meet the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, which have yet to be implemented fully,

Recalling the report on the situation of human rights in Croatia[10] submitted to the Security Council in pursuance of Council resolution 1019 (1995) of 9 November 1995,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/192 and 50/193 of 22 December 1995, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/71 of 23 April 1996[11] and all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, especially resolutions 1009 (1995) of 10 August 1995 and 1079 (1996) of 15 November 1996,

1. Expresses its serious concern about continuing human rights violations within Bosnia and Herzegovina and the delays in fully implementing the human rights provisions of the Peace Agreement;

2. Condemns in the strongest terms the continued forcible expulsion of individuals from their homes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as has happened recently in Banja Luka and Mostar, and the practice of destroying the homes of those previously forcibly expelled, and calls for the immediate arrest and punishment of individuals engaged in these actions;

3. Condemns the continuing restrictions on freedom of movement within the Republika Srpska, within some parts of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and between the Republika Srpska and the Federation;

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[8] A/51/651-S/1996/902, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996, document S/1996/902.

[9] A/51/663-S/1996/927, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996, document S/1996/927.

[10] Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996, document S/1996/691.

[11] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

4. Expresses concern for women and children, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were victims of rape used as a weapon of war, and calls for the perpetrators of rape to be brought to justice while ensuring that victims and witnesses receive adequate assistance and protection;

5. Insists that all parties implement fully the commitments made in the Peace Agreement to protect human rights, and also insists that the parties act to promote and protect democratic institutions of government at all levels in their respective countries, to ensure freedom of expression and of the media, to allow and encourage freedom of association, including with respect to political parties, and to ensure freedom of movement and that the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina comply with the human rights provisions of their national Constitution;

6. Welcomes the conclusions of the meeting of the ministerial Steering Board and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina,[12] held in Paris on 14 November 1996, in order to define the guiding principles of the civilian consolidation plan of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular in the field of human rights;

7. Calls upon the participants in the Peace Implementation Meeting, to be held in London on 6 December 1996, to ensure that the promotion of human rights, including the fulfilment of their respective human rights obligations by the parties to the Peace Agreement, as well as the strengthening of national institutions, will be a central element in the new civilian structure implementing the Peace Agreement;

8. Calls upon the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to undertake substantially greater efforts to institute democratic norms, especially in regard to the protection of free and independent media, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

9. Strongly urges the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to revoke all discriminatory legislation and to apply all other legislation without discrimination and to take urgent action to prevent arbitrary evictions and dismissals and discrimination against any ethnic or national, religious or linguistic group;

10. Urgently demands that the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) take immediate action to put an end to the repression of, and to prevent violence against, non-Serb populations in Kosovo, including acts of harassment, beatings, torture, warrantless searches, arbitrary detention and unfair trials, and also to respect the rights of persons belonging to minority groups in the Sandjak and Vojvodina and of persons belonging to the Bulgarian minority;

11. Calls upon the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to act immediately to allow all residents in Kosovo to participate freely and fully in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the region, particularly in the areas of education and health care, and to ensure that all the residents of the region are guaranteed equal treatment and protection regardless of ethnic affiliation;

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[12] Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996, document S/1996/968.

12. Calls upon the Government of the Republic of Croatia to fully respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to any national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minority;

13. Also calls upon the Government of the Republic of Croatia to undertake greater efforts to adhere to democratic norms, especially in regard to the Zagreb city council and the protection of free and independent media, and to cooperate fully with the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium to assure that the reintegration of Eastern Slavonia occurs peacefully and with respect for the human rights of all residents and returning displaced persons and refugees, including their right to remain, leave or return in safety and dignity;

14. Calls for the full and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement and the Basic Agreement by all the parties to them;

15. Urges all the parties to the Peace Agreement to create the necessary political, social and economic conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons in safety and dignity;

16. Insists that all authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina cooperate fully with the Commission on Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina, created under annex 6 of the Peace Agreement, in particular by providing information requested by the Human Rights Ombudsman and by participating in hearings before the Human Rights Chamber, and demands that the Republika Srpska cease its pattern of non-cooperation with the Commission;

17. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina to intensify its activities concerning alleged or apparent violations of human rights, or alleged or apparent discrimination of any kind;

18. Welcomes the commitments of the international community for post-war reconstruction and development assistance, and encourages the expansion of this assistance, while noting that such assistance should be conditioned on full compliance by the parties with agreements that have been made;

19. Urges the parties to create the necessary conditions for free and fair municipal elections to be held as soon as possible and as envisaged in the Peace Agreement, under the supervision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

20. Welcomes the enactment by the Republic of Croatia on 20 September 1996 of a new general amnesty law, intended in part to promote confidence on the part of the local Serb population, and calls for the proper implementation of that law;

21. Calls upon the Government of the Republic of Croatia to allow the expeditious return of all refugees and displaced persons and to use all available means to secure their safety and human rights, and to investigate and arrest those responsible for acts of violence and intimidation aimed at driving people away;

22. Strongly condemns the continuing refusal of the authorities of the Republika Srpska, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), certain other elements within the Federation and to some extent the Government of the Republic of Croatia to arrest and surrender

indicted war criminals known to be present in their territories, as they have agreed to do under the Peace Agreement;

23. Urgently calls upon all States and all parties to the Peace Agreement to meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, as required by Security Council resolution 827 (1993), including with respect to surrendering persons sought by the International Tribunal, and urges all States and the Secretary-General to support the Tribunal to the fullest extent possible, in particular, by helping to ensure that persons indicted by the Tribunal stand trial before it;

24. Demands that the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular the authorities of the Republika Srpska, and the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) ensure full and free access to their territories to all institutions and organizations concerned with the implementation of the present resolution, including non-governmental organizations;

25. Welcomes the interim reports[8,9] of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and commends the Special Rapporteur and the Human Rights Field Operation in the former Yugoslavia for their continuing efforts;

26. Urges all parties to implement fully the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights;

27. Calls upon the authorities of the States and entities within the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to cooperate with her and to provide her on a regular basis with information about the actions they are taking to implement her recommendations;

28. Reaffirms, as recommended previously by the Special Rapporteur, that major reconstruction aid must be made conditional on demonstrated respect for human rights, emphasizes in that context the necessity of cooperation with the International Tribunal, and welcomes in this regard the conclusions of the meeting of the ministerial Steering Board and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina,[12] held in Paris on 14 November 1996;

29. Welcomes the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the European Community Monitoring Mission and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in monitoring and strengthening the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region;

30. Calls upon the parties to the Peace Agreement to take immediate steps to determine the identity, the whereabouts and the fate of missing persons, in particular near Srebrenica, Žepa, Prijedor, Sanski Most and Vukovar, including through close cooperation with the International Commission on Missing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia, other international humanitarian organizations and independent experts, and commends the work undertaken by the expert member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur, the Working Group

on the Process for Tracing Persons Unaccounted For, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Expert Group on Exhumation and Missing Persons, chaired by the High Representative, and stresses the importance of coordinating work in this area;

31. Encourages all Governments to respond favourably to appeals for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the Commission on Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Commission on Missing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights and other institutions of reconciliation, democracy and justice in the region;

32. Decides to continue its examination of this question at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/51/117
6 March 1997

Fifty-first session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.3 and Corr.1)]

51/117. Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[2] and other applicable human rights instruments,

Aware that, in accordance with the Charter, the Organization promotes and encourages respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government,

Recalling its resolution 50/194 of 22 December 1995,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/58 of 3 March 1992,[3] in which the Commission, inter alia, decided to nominate a special rapporteur to establish direct contacts with the Government and with the people of Myanmar, including political leaders deprived of their liberty, their families and their lawyers, with a view to examining the situation of human rights in Myanmar and following any progress made towards the transfer

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

of power to a civilian Government and the drafting of a new constitution, the lifting of restrictions on personal freedoms and the restoration of human rights in Myanmar,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/80 of 23 April 1996,[4] in which the Commission decided to extend for one year the mandate of its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,

Noting with concern that the Government of Myanmar has not yet agreed to visits by a representative of the Secretary-General and by the Special Rapporteur,

Gravely concerned that the Government of Myanmar still has not implemented its commitment to take all necessary steps towards democracy in the light of the results of the elections held in 1990,

Recalling the release without conditions of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on 10 July 1995,

Gravely concerned at the travel and other restrictions placed on Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders and at the recent mass arrests of members and supporters of the National League for Democracy for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression, assembly and association, and alarmed by the attack, on 9 November 1996, on Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the National League for Democracy,

Recalling the withdrawal and subsequent exclusion from the National Convention of members of the National League for Democracy in late 1995,

Regretting the failure of the Government of Myanmar to open a political dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders, including representatives of ethnic groups,

Gravely concerned at the continued violations of human rights in Myanmar, as reported by the Special Rapporteur, including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, killings of civilians, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, deaths in custody, absence of due process of law, severe restrictions on freedoms of opinion, expression, assembly and association, violations of freedom of movement, forced relocation, forced labour and portering and the imposition of oppressive measures directed in particular at ethnic and religious minorities,

Recalling the observation made by the Special Rapporteur that the absence of respect for the rights pertaining to democratic governance is at the root of all the major violations of human rights in Myanmar,

Recalling also the conclusion of ceasefire agreements between the Government of Myanmar and several ethnic groups,

Noting that the human rights situation in Myanmar has resulted in flows of refugees to neighbouring countries, thus creating problems for the countries concerned,

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[4] Ibid., 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar for his interim report,[5] and urges the Government of Myanmar to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur;

2. Also expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report;[6]

3. Deplores the continued violations of human rights in Myanmar;

4. Requests the Government of Myanmar to permit unrestricted communication with and physical access to Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders by members and supporters of the National League for Democracy and to protect their physical well-being;

5. Strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to release immediately and unconditionally detained political leaders and all political prisoners, to ensure their physical integrity and to permit them to participate in the process of national reconciliation;

6. Urges the Government of Myanmar to engage, at the earliest possible date, in a substantive political dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders, including representatives of ethnic groups, as the best means of promoting national reconciliation and the full and early restoration of democracy;

7. Welcomes the discussions between the Government of Myanmar and the Secretary-General, and further encourages the Government of Myanmar to allow a visit by the representative of the Secretary-General, as soon as possible, in order to allow for a broader dialogue in Myanmar;

8. Again urges the Government of Myanmar, in conformity with its assurances given at various times, to take all necessary steps towards the restoration of democracy in accordance with the will of the people as expressed in the democratic elections held in 1990 and to ensure that political parties and non-governmental organizations can function freely;

9. Expresses its concern that most of the representatives duly elected in 1990 are still excluded from participating in the meetings of the National Convention, created to prepare basic elements for the drafting of a new constitution, and that one of the objectives of the Convention is to maintain the participation of the armed forces in a leading role in the future political life of the State, and notes also with concern that the working procedures of the National Convention do not permit the elected representatives of the people freely to express their views;

10. Strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to take all appropriate measures to allow all citizens to participate freely in the political process, in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to accelerate the process of transition to democracy, in

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[5] See A/51/466.

[6] A/51/660.

particular through the transfer of power to democratically elected representatives;

11. Also strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and assembly, the right to fair trial and the protection of the rights of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, and to put an end to violations of the right to life and integrity of the human being, to the practices of torture, abuse of women, forced labour and forced relocations and to enforced disappearances and summary executions;

12. Appeals to the Government of Myanmar to consider becoming a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[2] and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment;[7]

13. Strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to fulfil its obligations as a State party to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), of the International Labour Organization, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to cooperate more closely with the International Labour Organization;

14. Stresses the importance for the Government of Myanmar to give particular attention to conditions in the country's jails and to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to communicate freely and confidentially with prisoners;

15. Calls upon the Government of Myanmar and other parties to the hostilities in Myanmar to respect fully the obligations under international humanitarian law, including article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[8] to halt the use of weapons against the civilian population, to protect all civilians, including children, women and persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, from violations of humanitarian law and to avail itself of such services as may be offered by impartial humanitarian bodies;

16. Encourages the Government of Myanmar to create the necessary conditions to ensure an end to the movements of refugees to neighbouring countries and to create conditions conducive to their voluntary return and their full reintegration, in conditions of safety and dignity;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his discussions with the Government of Myanmar in order to assist in the implementation of the present resolution and its efforts for national reconciliation and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session;

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[7] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[8] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

18. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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Fifty-first session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.4)]

51/118. Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/121 of 20 December 1993, in which it endorsed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[1] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, as well as its subsequent resolutions on this matter,

Reaffirming the view of the World Conference that the promotion and protection of human rights is a matter of priority for the international community,

Considering that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and one of the main priorities of the Organization,

Convinced that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action has to be translated into effective action by States, the competent United Nations organs and organizations and other organizations concerned, including non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing the importance of dialogue and cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights,

[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Recalling the request of the Conference to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take immediate steps to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations,

Recalling also part II, paragraph 100, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in which the Conference requested the Secretary-General to invite, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all States and all organs and agencies of the United Nations system related to human rights to report to him on the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further that regional and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, may present their views to the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and that special attention should be paid to assessing the progress towards the goal of universal ratification of international human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

Recalling that by its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993 the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities, including coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system,

Noting that, at the first regular session of 1994 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, held in April, the executive heads of all United Nations agencies discussed the implications of the results of the Conference for their respective programmes and committed themselves to support the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the coordination of the United Nations organs, bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights, as set out in resolution 48/141,

Recognizing that the interdependence of democracy, development and respect for human rights, as stated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, requires a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of human rights and that adequate inter-agency cooperation and coordination are essential in order to ensure such a fully integrated approach throughout the United Nations system,

Noting that the High Commissioner has established a permanent dialogue with the United Nations programmes and agencies whose activities deal with human rights in order to maintain systematic exchanges of information, experience and expertise,

Welcoming the fact that the call of the World Conference on Human Rights for a United Nations system-wide approach to human rights issues has been reflected in the recommendations of major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Noting the ongoing efforts to ensure a coordinated follow-up to major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling that each year the Economic and Social Council shall carry out, within the framework of its coordination segment, a review of cross-cutting themes common to major international conferences and/or contribute to an overall review of the implementation of the programme of action of a United Nations conference, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1995/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[2]

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[3] in particular chapter IX, entitled "1998: Human Rights Year",

1. Reaffirms the importance of the promotion of universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as expressed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

2. Reaffirms also the views of the World Conference on Human Rights on the urgency of eliminating denials and violations of human rights;

3. Recognizes that the international community should devise ways and means to remove current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

4. Calls upon all States to take further action with a view to the full realization of all human rights in the light of the recommendations of the Conference;

5. Urges all States to continue to give widespread publicity to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including through training programmes, human rights education and public information, in order to promote increased awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system related to human rights to take further action with a view to the full implementation of all the recommendations of the Conference;

7. Also requests the High Commissioner to continue to coordinate the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system, as set out in resolution 48/141, including through a permanent dialogue with the United Nations agencies and programmes whose activities deal with human rights;

8. Invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to discuss the implications of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

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[2] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.

[3] See A/51/36; see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36.

for the United Nations system, with the participation of the High Commissioner;

9. Takes note of the intention of the High Commissioner to invite all States and all organs and agencies of the United Nations system related to human rights to carry out a thorough evaluation of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as part of the 1998 five-year review foreseen in part II, paragraph 100, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

10. Welcomes the inter-agency consultations of the High Commissioner with all United Nations programmes and agencies whose activities deal with human rights for the preparation of the 1998 five-year review, and calls upon them to contribute actively to this process;

11. Encourages regional and national human rights institutions as well as non-governmental organizations to present, on this occasion, their views on the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

12. Welcomes and supports Economic and Social Council decision 1996/283 of 24 July 1996,[4] in which the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights to consider devoting the coordination segment at its substantive session of 1998 to the question of the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as part of the 1998 five-year review foreseen in part II, paragraph 100, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

13. Requests the High Commissioner to continue to report on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular concerning the preparation of the 1998 five-year review;

14. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

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[4] See A/51/3 (Part II), chap. V, sect. A; see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/51/119
7 March 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 110 (e)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.5)]

51/119. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, establishing the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Reaffirming its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[1] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993

Recalling its decision 50/465 of 22 December 1995, concerning the organization of work of the Third Committee and the biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1996-1997, which includes in its programme of work the item entitled "Human rights questions: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights",

Recognizing, in accordance with resolution 48/141, the crucial and important role that the High Commissioner's functions play in removing the current obstacles and in meeting the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[2]

Stressing the importance of enabling the smooth running of the United Nations human rights machinery,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[2] on the effective promotion and protection of all human rights;

2. Encourages the High Commissioner to continue his activities in discharging his responsibilities under resolution 48/141;

3. Expresses its appreciation for the constructive manner in which the High Commissioner is carrying out his functions;

4. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

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[2] A/51/36; see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36.